(d) The projections of production of Aluminium during the 8th Plan of NALCO and BALCO are 10,21,000 MT and 4,75,000 MT respectively. During the 8th Plan NALCO plans to export 3,40,000 tonnes of aluminium. BALCO has not made any projection of export of aluminium during the 8th Plan.

For 9th Plan no projections for production and export have been made by these Companies.

Setting up tribunals on mining Disputes

650. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases pertaining to mining disputes are increasing;

(b) whether Government had a proposal to set up tribunals at the State Headequarters to settle those mining disputes;

(c) if so, by which date these tribunals are likely to be set up; and

(d) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No Sir,

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Mining Licences

651. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow State Governments to issue mining licences for freely available minerals directly; and

(b) the details of simplification of licencing procedure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV (a) and (b) Prospecting Licence (PL Mining Lease for all minerals are granted by the State Governments. However, for the minerals specified in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the State Governments have to take prior approval of the Central Government before granting a prospecting licence/mining lease. Central Government through the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1994, has reduced the number of minerals listed in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulaton and Development) Act, 1957 from 38 to 23.

Capacity of Steel Plants

652. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the capacity of steel plants in the country ;

(b) what steps Government propose for the modernisation of the steel plants in the country to accelerate the production of steel; and

(c) what has been the effects of industrial policy and its liberalisation of steel plants in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) The crude steel capacity of steel plants in the country was 24.87 million tonnes during 1993-94. Apart from this, there are a large number of induction furnace units engaged in the production of steel.

(b) with a view to accelerate steel production with improved techno-economics & quality, Government has approved the modernisation projects at Durgapur, Rourkela